



# SHORTER COLLEGE

North Little Rock, AR

# 2014

President's Report



O. Jerome Green, Esq.,  
President

ShorterCollege.edu

*You fit here!*



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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor to present my annual report for the 2013-14 academic year. Last year, our report set forth an ambitious plan to stimulate the growth and revitalization of Shorter College. With the continued support of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Samuel L. Green and the Board of Trustees, and expanding partnerships within the community, we have witnessed this growth and revitalization.

**A spirit of progression has become ingrained in the culture at Shorter College, and is evidenced in our achievements.**

One of our biggest accomplishments for the 2013-14 school year was regaining full accreditation with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), which has opened us up to vital funding possibilities, and allows students to earn associate degrees that are recognized by other institutions.

**In addition to accreditation, enrollment has increased by nearly 51 percent, we have completed important infrastructure projects such as renovations to the S.S. Morris Student Center, and we are finalizing plans to break ground on**



**Shorter College's most recent student housing development in October 2014. This is the first of three phases of housing developments included in our strategic plan.**

As we continue this unprecedented growth, we remain focused on meeting the academic needs of the men and women we serve. After much evaluation and collaborative thinking, the following actions have been approved by the Board of Trustees for the 2014-15 academic year:

- **Develop the approved academic majors for the associate of arts degrees in entrepreneurial business studies and criminal justice**
- **Seek candidacy status for an accredited four-year degree program in Christian Leadership, thereby setting the stage for the revitalization of Jackson Seminary and assuring accreditation through 2026**
- **Seek candidacy status with the North Central Accreditation Association for Shorter College's existing two-year degree programs**

**After experiencing such growth in 2013-14, we are confident that these and other campus goals, will not only be met, but will be exceeded.**

With your support and God's blessing on our plans, we will continue to make Shorter College a place where life-transforming opportunities shape the futures of the young people that we serve according to our mission.

Yours for a greater Shorter College,

O. Jerome Green, Esq.  
45th President of Shorter College

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

To Bishop Preston W. Williams, Bishops of the Church, General and Connectional Officers, Members of the Commission on Higher Education and the entire constituency of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Greetings!

The Board of Trustees of Shorter College, the members of the 12th Episcopal District and I are proud of the success and accomplishments of Shorter College over this past year.

**It can be said that a miracle has happened at 604 Locust Street. Shorter College is a viable institution of higher learning and is fully accredited and fiscally operating in the black.**

I thank God for the work and effective leadership of our President, Dr. O. Jerome Green, who has worked with the Trustees, administration, faculty and support staff to ensure that Shorter College continues to strive for academic excellence and meet the challenges of providing an affordable and quality education for a traditional and nontraditional student population who need an open admission college like Shorter.



As you peruse this report, I am sure that you will join me in rejoicing over what God has done through the leadership of this institution.

## **Shorter has risen from the ashes and “still she rises.”**

Peace and joy,

Samuel L. Green, Sr.  
Chairman, Shorter College  
Trustee Board and  
12th Episcopal District Presiding Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church



## THE MISSION OF SHORTER COLLEGE

The Mission of Shorter College is to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality education for students to accomplish their academic goals by offering programs that meet the learner's needs in a challenging and nurturing Christian environment.

## THE VISION OF SHORTER COLLEGE

The vision of Shorter College is to seek and become a fully accredited two-year institution, and to achieve distinction as a small Christian College that excels in providing a challenging teacher-learner environment with a flexible curriculum offering academic, basic and career-oriented courses, and partnerships with the community to create opportunities for students to develop leadership abilities, life skills and to increase their employment potential.

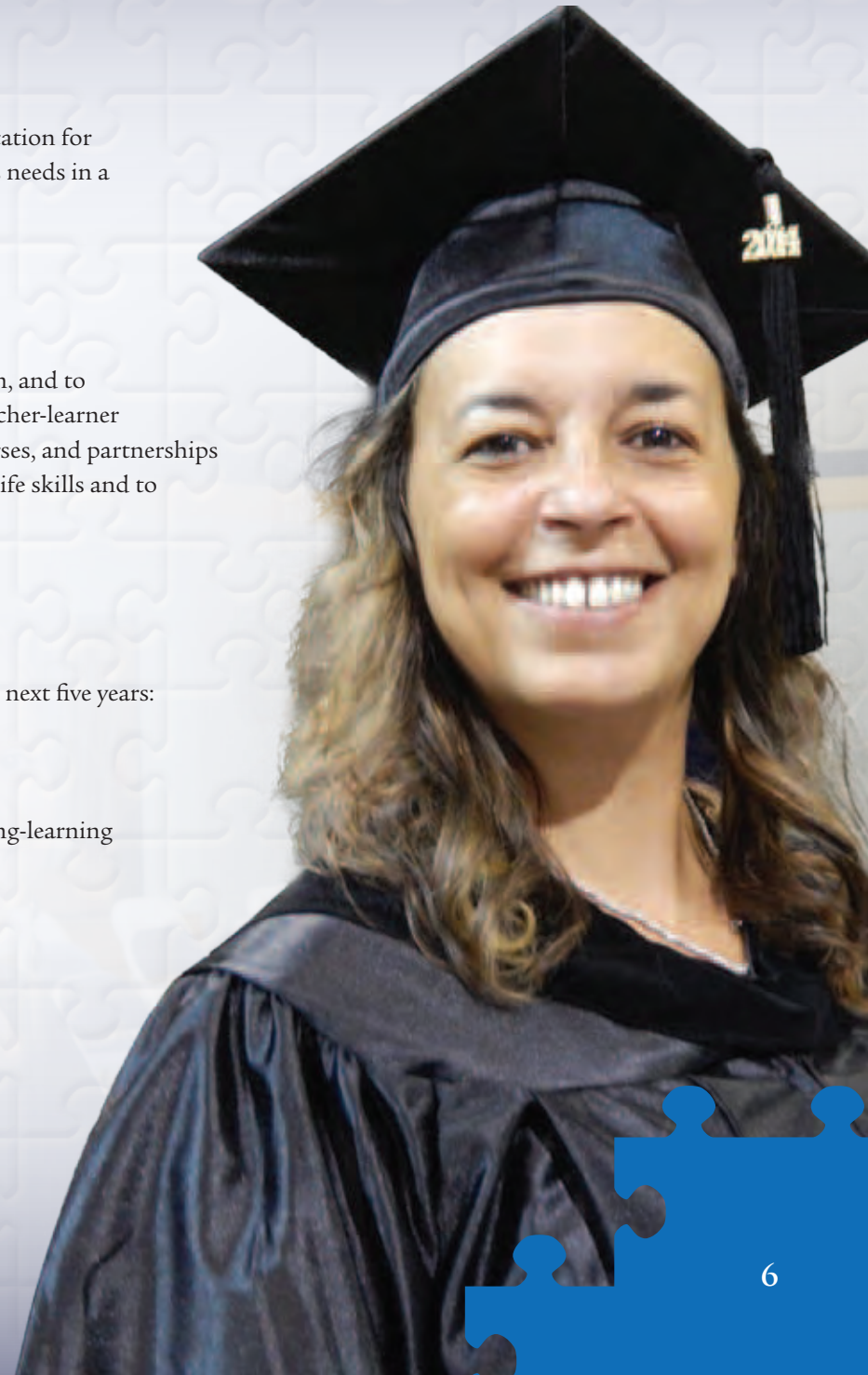
## THE GOALS OF SHORTER COLLEGE

Shorter College is pursuing the following goals for institutional revitalization during the next five years:

1. To maintain our accreditation and gain additional certifications;
2. To strengthen the College's financial position and viability
3. To continue to excel in academic and instructional programs and provide a teaching-learning environment that promotes student success.

## DEGREES OFFERED

Shorter College offers an Associate Degree of Arts (AA) in one of the following concentrations: General Studies, Teaching or Ministerial Leadership (Religious Studies).



## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE COLLEGE

Founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1886, Shorter College was a logical and pragmatic response to the need of recently freed slaves to overcome the many disadvantages and deprivations of slavery and racial discrimination. This was a time, little more than twenty years after the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, when black people had no access to institutions of higher learning. In fact, the prevailing attitude was that Blacks had no capacity for learning and the vast majority lacked basic education and skills.

**The church seized the opportunity to provide instruction leading to a general education, but also aimed at developing competent leadership among Black people.**

In November 1886, under the leadership of Bishop T.M.D. Ward, the Arkansas Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, less than twenty years after it was organized, formulated a plan for establishing an institution of higher learning. When it opened on September 15, 1886, the school was housed in the basement of Bethel A. M. E. Church on Ninth and Broadway in Little Rock, Arkansas and was named Bethel University.



*Bishop J.A. Shorter*

**Its first session opened with an enrollment of 109 students, and a long-standing commitment to providing quality education to Central Arkansas was established.**

In December 1892 the Annual Conference renamed the school to Shorter University in honor of Bishop James Alexander Shorter, organizer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Arkansas. On May 18, 1894, Shorter University was chartered under its new name. A year later, under the leadership of Principal F. T. Vinegar and Bishop W. B. Derrick, Shorter acquired land and buildings in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

**On August 14, 1903, the charter was amended to change the name of the institution to Shorter College, in that same year, the first building was erected and named Tyree Hall.**



In 1955, a decision was made to operate the college as a 2-year institution under the leadership of President Theophilus D. Alexander and Bishop William R. Wilkes.

Dr. Katherine P. Mitchell, elected on September 21, 1989, by the Board of Trustees, took office on November 1, 1989 becoming the first woman to be elected President of the College. Under Dr. Mitchell's leadership, the college made significant progress to include the completion of the Henry A. Belin Health-Plex and the Alexander-Turner Child Development Center.

Under the administration of the College's 43rd President, Lillie Alexis, the Board of Trustees elected to bring back one of its former Presidents, Dr. Katherine P. Mitchell, to lead the effort to gain candidacy status with Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools (TRACS). On April 13, 2011, Shorter College received notification of its successful completion of this accomplishment.



*Tyree Hall, circa 1910s*

**In October 2013, under the leadership of O. Jerome Green, 45th president, Shorter College became fully accredited with TRACS.**

# THE TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

As we continue to position Shorter College as not only an institution of education, but also as an initiator of transformation, the enduring impact of the College's "Four Cs" is visible through the changes in the lives of our students.



*Dr. Joycelyn Elders*

We believe that **Competence, Character, Culture and Citizenship** are the keys that unlock the doors to spiritual, mental and financial prosperity. We have enforced this belief through our invigorating Chapel Services that have featured outstanding role models such as **Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Judge Marion Humphrey and Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton.**

*Angelita Brazel,  
Spring 2014 Graduate*



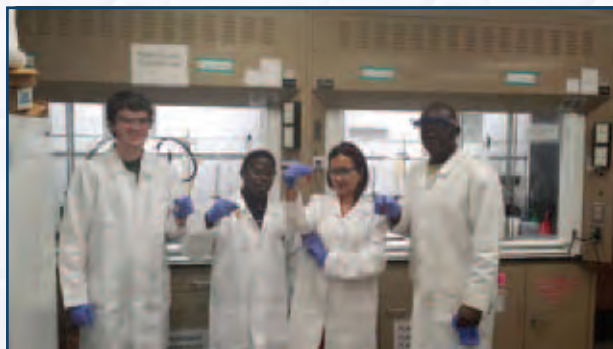
**We have also witnessed the impact of the “Four Cs” on students as they reach new heights in their academic endeavors.**

Wesley Allen is an alumnus who went from homelessness to a Shorter College graduate. He is now attending Bethune-Cookman University seeking a four-year degree on a full scholarship.

Ms. Yolanda Johnson, a 42-year-old mother of three and first-year student at Shorter College, went from an uncertain future, to candidacy for a competitive 10-week internship with the U.S. Department of Energy.

James Mack, III, has been selected to participate in the National Science Foundation’s Summer Workshop Program this summer, on the campus of the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville). This will prepare him for competitive STEM jobs in the future.

**All of these students attribute their opportunities and successes to the atmosphere of support and accountability forged by the Shorter College family and their belief in the transformative power of the “Four Cs.”**



*James Mack, III (second from left) in the lab at U of A, Fayetteville.*



*Wesley Allen displays his Shorter diploma.*

# CONTINUED GROWTH

## ENROLLMENT

Shorter College is still the fastest growing private, two-year institution in the state.

**Enrollment for the 2013-2014 year was projected to reach 350 students. During the 2013-2014 academic year, Shorter exceeded this projection with a surge in enrollment that ended the year with 464 fully admitted students.**

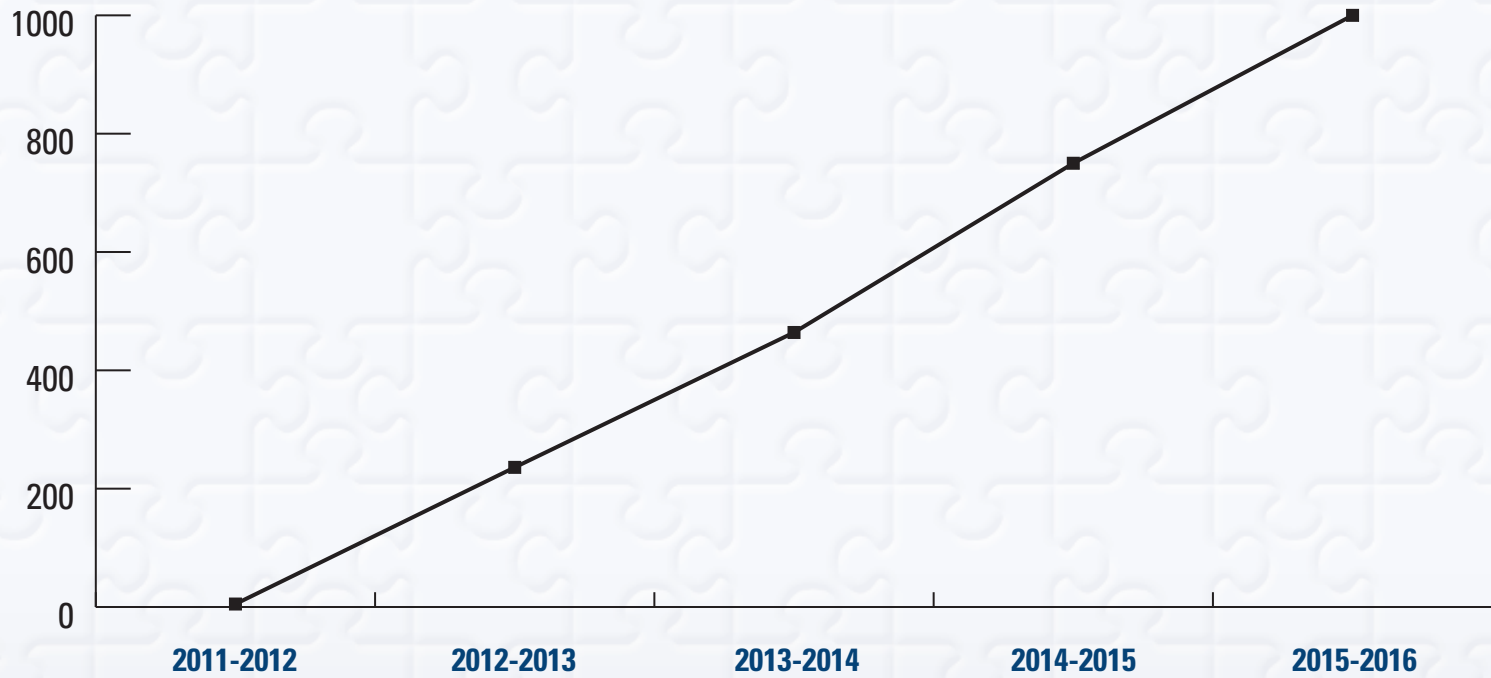
This growth trend is expected to continue, and is attributable in large part to the continuous marketing campaign undertaken on behalf of the President and the Board of Trustees.

The “You Fit Here” campaign has created public awareness about the rebirth of Shorter College as a viable option for higher education. With plans to continue telling the Shorter story already in place, and the continued exposure of the community to the benefits of attendance, campus leadership predicts sustained growth throughout the next five years.



**This school year, Shorter College commenced the graduation of 13 students and awarded five honorary doctorates.**

**Projected Student Population Growth**



# SHORTER RECOGNIZED IN FEBRUARY 9 EDITION OF ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The growth of Shorter College has not gone unnoticed. In February 2014, the revitalization of Shorter College was reported on by the *Arkansas-Democrat Gazette*, the state's largest print publication.



Jerome Green was in Birmingham, Ala., working as the director of government relations at Miles College when he got the call to come back to Arkansas.

A native of Pell City, Ala., and an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Green had spent more than 30 years on a legal career in Arkansas that included a partnership in the Little Rock law firm of Gill, Wallace, Clayton & Elrod, now the Gill Firm.

His answer was succinct when asked why he agreed to leave a lucrative career to take over Shorter College.

"Instead of being a lawyer who is a minister, I evolved to a minister who is also a lawyer," Jerome Green said.

It is that message of faith, hope and restoration that has drawn students to Shorter College, he said. Immediately after taking his July 2012, Jerome Green was given a \$12,000 stipend to lead an enrollment campaign for the fall semester.

He led the marketing blitz on the message of "You fit here," creating a place of acceptance for students from all walks of life.

When asked, "Where did you get them from?" he said, "I got them from the corner. I got them from where they were sent here by life itself, hoping desperately that

The roars of loud shouts of "Yes!"

Positive affirmations for each of the philosophy of Citizenship

"These are assessing,"

Wednesday sessions of parking

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At 10:55 a.m. Wednesday, a throng of students reached the doors of the chapel at Shorter College and were turned away by a uniformed police officer.

The students nearest the double doors turned to the others behind them and motioned the way across the courtyard to the college's library, where the service could be watched by remote television.

Back inside the auditorium, more than 200 students and faculty filled every seat available, including metal chairs set up on the stage to accommodate the overflow. Some students sat on the steps of the auditorium.

"Today, enrollment has risen to nearly 500 students; the North Little Rock college has regained its accreditation, opening up Title IV federal financial aid, and the faculty and staff have expanded from "four people, including the janitor" in 2012 to more than 40 professors, administrators and support personnel."



## NLR's Shorter College revives Enrollment soaring after tax, accreditation woes resolved

Choir Director Karliss Chapple (cq) leads the Shorter College Choir during chapel services Wednesday February 5, 2014 in Little Rock. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MELISSA SUE GERRITS 02/05/2014-

JEANNIE ROBERTS  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

It is a period Green refers to as the "14-year drought."

Today, enrollment has risen to nearly 500 students; the North Little Rock college has regained its accreditation, opening up Title IV federal financial aid; and the faculty and staff have expanded from "four people, including the janitor" in 2012 to more than 40 professors, administrators and support personnel.

Green unfurled a large paper scroll, pointing to a black-and-white architectural rendering of the future of Shorter College: a two-level, state-of-the-art student dormitory.

Green was quick to lead

# INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## ACCREDITATION

On October 29, 2013, representatives from the Board of Trustees and Administration of Shorter went before the commissioners of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), the national accreditation agency for Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries in the United States, seeking to renew the College's accreditation. Shorter College received full accreditation with no conditions.

This accreditation has opened up much needed funding options for Shorter College, including private funding sources.

*TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).*





## COMPLETION OF S.S. MORRIS STUDENT CENTER RENOVATIONS

The campus life available to students is an important component of the college experience. The student center is the heart of this experience, and fosters a sense of community by providing students with a common place to study, work or play. Renovations to the S.S. Morris Student Center were completed during the spring semester. It will be the central location for student activities, organizational meetings, and lounging during class breaks. It will also house other resources for student needs, a dining facility and food services.

## DR. JAMES CONE, RENOWNED THEOLOGIAN/AUTHOR/SHORTER ALUMNUS, VISITED THE CAMPUS IN SPRING 2014

Dr. James Hal Cone, an esteemed Shorter College alumnus, was the guest lecturer for the African Methodist Episcopal Church's 12th Episcopal District Founders' Day Celebration. The celebration was a part of Shorter College's Religious Emphasis Week (February 17- 22, 2014). Dr. Cone is acknowledged as the "Father of Black Liberation Theology." In addition to being a renowned theologian, Dr. Cone is a best-selling author and professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

## CAMPUS GETS STATE-OF-THE-ARTS RECORDS SYSTEM

In 2013, Shorter College installed a revolutionary management system. CAMS® (Comprehensive Academic Management System) is a worldwide system designed for colleges and universities. It manages student records during their entire college lifecycle, from first contact with a prospective student through graduation and alumni relations. This system has made it easier for students to access important data and more efficient for staff and faculty to manage the day-to-day needs of higher education.



# NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

As Shorter College continues to grow, student housing becomes essential to meeting the needs of Shorter's nontraditional student base. To meet these needs, Shorter College is planning to break ground on a housing facility consisting of dormitory and efficiency units. The proposed student housing project consists of three buildings with 36 units each, to be built in three phases (one building per year, beginning October 29, 2014). The plan to build affordable student housing will make the two-year college experience a more appealing choice for students seeking affordable, high-quality education.



## PRESIDENT GREEN AWARDED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AWARD

President O. Jerome Green received an award for his involvement and his efforts in the community from the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission on January 20, 2014. This award was presented to him during the Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast, which was held on the campus of Shorter College.

## FACULTY/STAFF EXPANSION

The hiring of faculty and staff has expanded to keep pace with the unprecedented growth of Shorter College. Since 2012, the number of faculty and staff has expanded from a total of four, to more than 40 professors, administrators and support personnel. Shorter College is already home to a team of highly-qualified faculty doing world-class work. One example of this excellence is Joann Scales, a Professor of Mathematics. Scales became a published author with the 2013 release of her book, *College Algebra: Basic Notes and Tips*.

With the addition of two newly approved programs (associate of arts degrees in entrepreneurial business studies and criminal justice), Shorter College will be looking to add even more qualified individuals to its dedicated team.

## HONORS CONVOCATION

The Spring Honors Convocations highlighted and celebrated students who showed high scholastic performance for the Spring and Fall semesters in 2013. The April 9th event featured guest speaker, Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, distinguished educator and administrator.

# FUNDRAISING AND FINANCES

Community partnerships have benefitted Shorter College's fundraising efforts. In 2014, President Green was presented with a total of \$47,000 in awards from the General Improvements Funds of the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc.

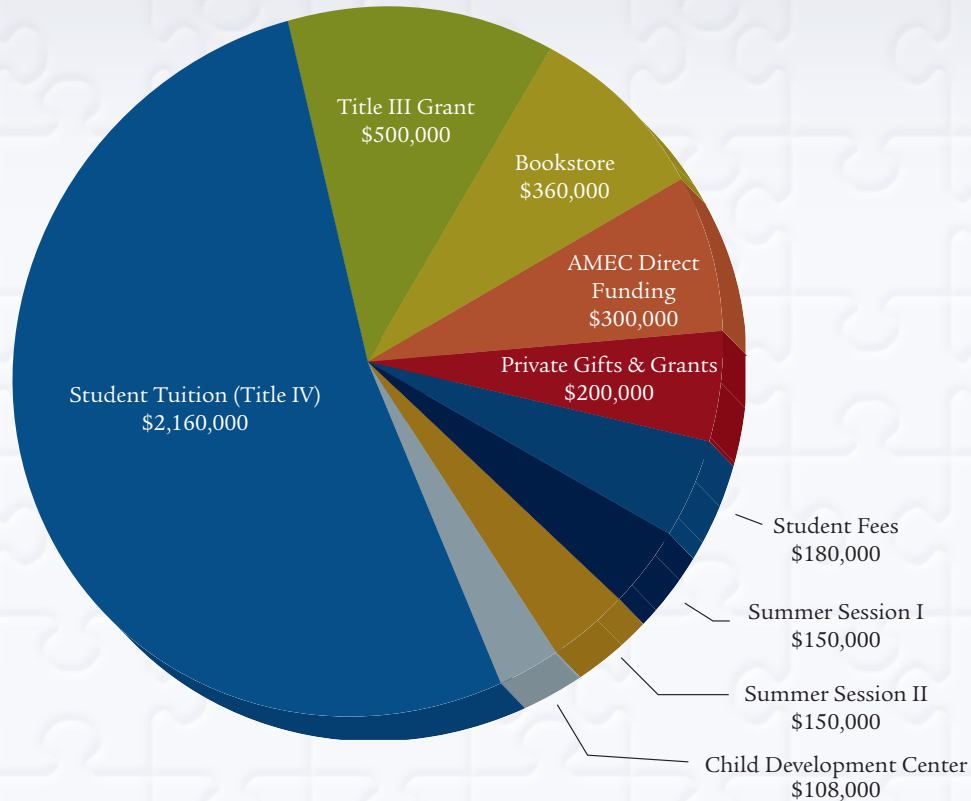
**These dollars will fund infrastructure improvements such as the installation of handicap accessible lifts, two portable classrooms to accommodate the College's growth, and renovations to the S. S. Morris Student Center.**

The school year ended with Shorter College hosting its premier fundraiser the "Shorter College Gala." The event was held Saturday, May 9th, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. It was a sold out event that featured Attorney Willie E. Gary as the guest speaker. Proceeds will fund projects as determined by the Board of Trustees.



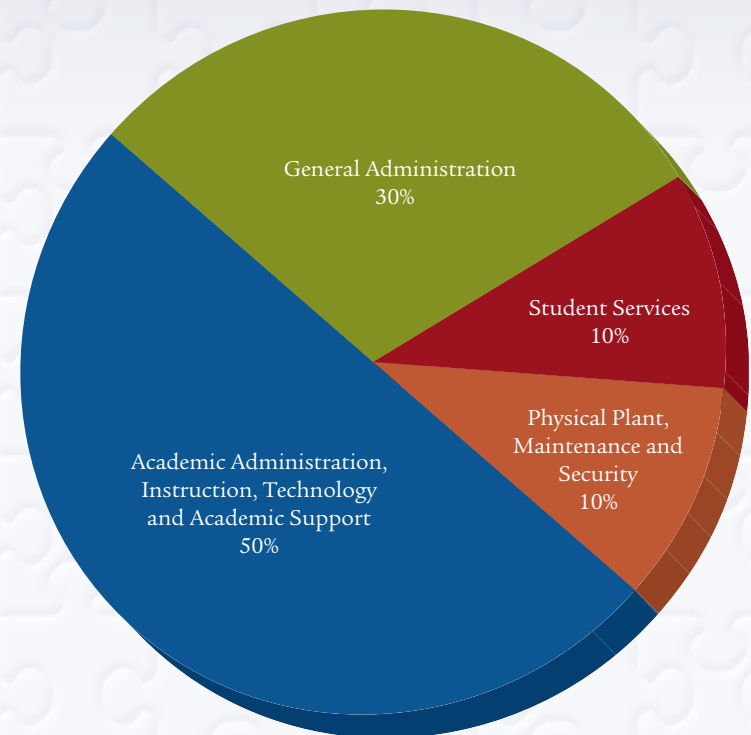
# BUDGET YEAR JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015

## PROJECTED REVENUE



Total Revenue - \$4,108,000

## PROJECTED EXPENSES



**Shorter College is experiencing phenomenal growth in terms of student population and total earned revenue.** The above charts reflect the projected Operating Revenue as well as Projected Expenses. **These numbers do not reflect the total economic impact of the college's operation. Student tuition and fees total \$ 2,640,000. However, this number does not reflect the 2 to 1 multiplier effect.** Shorter College operates as the fiscal agent for each student receiving federal Pell grants and / or private loans. These dollars are disbursed directly to the students after all tuition and fees are captured.

**The total economic impact including the multiplier effect is an astounding \$9,388,000.00.**

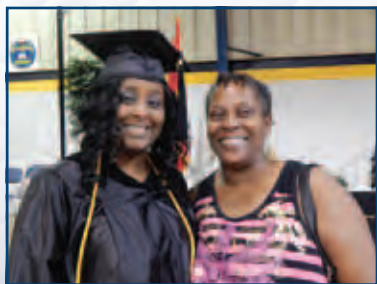
# 119th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

On May 10, 2014, Shorter College held its 119th Commencement.

**Last year, commencement featured one graduate. This year, a total of 13 students received their associate degrees in one of the following fields of study: General Studies, Childhood Development and Christian Leadership.**

The event featured a commencement address from Dr. Edison O. Jackson, President of Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona, Florida.





# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# SHORTER COLLEGE

North Little Rock, AR

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501.374.6305

[ShorterCollege.edu](http://ShorterCollege.edu)



*You fit here!*

